THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15.   (Cancelled).

Claim 16.   (Currently amended)   A method for automatically monitoring at least one media peripheral via a communication network, the method comprising:

automatically identifying by a first system, at a first location, the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to one or both of the first system and/or a second system, the second system at a second location;

automatically establishing a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

automatically determining authorization for monitoring of the at least one media peripheral;

automatically monitoring, by the first system, at least one status parameter of the at least one media peripheral, if the authorization is successful; and

automatically responding, by the first system, to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is successful; and

~~automatically not monitoring and not responding to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is not successful~~.

Claim 17.   (Original)   The method of claim 16 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one of a digital camera, a personal computer, a digital camcorder, a MP3 player, a mobile multi-media gateway, a home juke-box, and a personal digital assistant.

Claim 18.   (Original)   The method of claim 16 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises a processor running at least one of media capture software and media player software.

Claim 19.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the communication link is established via a wired connection.

Claim 20.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the communication link is established via a wireless connection.

Claim 21.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the at least one status parameter comprises a battery level, an "on/off" indication, an amount of storage used, an amount of storage remaining, a "within range" indication, a software version, a model number, a serial number, and a certificate ID.

Claim 22.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the first system.

Claim 23.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the second system.

Claim 24.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a set-top-box based media processing system.

Claim 25.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a personal computer based media processing system.

Claim 26.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a television based media processing system.

Claim 27.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished periodically over time.

Claim 28.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished at one or more pre-designated times.

Claim 29.   (Original)   The method of claim 16 wherein the responding comprises at least one of storing the state of the at least one status parameter and displaying the state of the at least one status parameter.

Claim 30.   (Original)   The method of claim 16 wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the first system.

Claim 31.   (Original)   The method of claim 16 wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the at least one media peripheral.

Claim 32.   (Currently amended)   One or more circuits for a media processing system supporting automatic monitoring of at least one media peripheral via a communication network, the one or more circuits comprising:

one or more processors communicatively coupled to the communication network, the one or more processors operable to, at least:

automatically identify, from a first system at a first location, the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to one or both of the first system and/or a second system, the second system at a second location;

automatically establish a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

automatically determine authorization for monitoring of the at least one media peripheral;

automatically monitor, by the first system, at least one status parameter of the at least one media peripheral, if the authorization is successful; and

automatically respond, by the first system, to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is successful; and

~~automatically not monitor and not respond to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is not successful.~~

Claim 33.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one of a digital camera, a personal computer, a digital camcorder, a MP3 player, a mobile multi-media gateway, a home juke-box, and a personal digital assistant.

Claim 34.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises a processor running at least one of media capture software and media player software.

Claim 35.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the communication link is established via a wired connection.

Claim 36.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the communication link is established via a wireless connection.

Claim 37.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the at least one status parameter comprises a battery level, an "on/off" indication, an amount of storage used, an amount of storage remaining, a "within range" indication, a software version, a model number, a serial number, and a certificate ID.

Claim 38.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the first system.

Claim 39.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the at least one media peripheral is co-located with respect to the second system.

Claim 40.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a set-top-box based media processing system.

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Claim 41.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a personal computer based media processing system.

Claim 42.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a television based media processing system.

Claim 43.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished periodically over time.

Claim 44.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the establishing, the monitoring, and the responding are accomplished at one or more pre-designated times.

Claim 45.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the responding comprises at least one of storing the state of the at least one status parameter and displaying the state of the at least one status parameter.

Claim 46.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the first system.

Claim 47.   (Previously presented)   The one or more circuits of claim 32 wherein the establishing the communication link is automatically initiated by the at least one media peripheral.

Claim 48.   (New)   The method of claim 16, comprising automatically not monitoring and not responding to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is not successful.

Claim 49.   (New)   The one or more circuits of claim 32, wherein the one or more processors are operable to automatically not monitor and not respond to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is not successful.